

# KENTUCKY COUNTY HEALTH PROFILES, 1998

## INTRODUCTION

The Surveillance & Health Data Branch of the Division of Epidemiology & Health Planning announces publication of *Kentucky County Health Profiles, 1998*. This edition is the fourth in this series of annual reports designed to provide data for health status assessment and planning at the state and local levels.

The tables in this report follow the same basic format as the 1997 edition. As in 1997, the Kentucky Population Research program, University of Louisville, provided population estimates in three racial categories: White, Black, and Other (all other races). Due to limitations of space and the extremely small numbers of the Other population at the county level, statistics disaggregated by race in this report are presented for the White and Black populations only. As a consequence, in many cases the White and Black statistics may not sum to the total.

Like the 1996 and 1997 reports, this report uses the 1940 U.S. standard population for age-adjusted death rates (AAR), and computes years of potential life lost prior to age 75 (YPLL-75). Neither of these statistics is comparable to those in the 1995 report, which used the 1970 U.S. standard population for computing AAR, and computed years of potential life lost prior to age 65. Both age-adjusted death rates and YPLL-75 are addressed in more detail in the Technical Notes at the end of the report.

This report incorporates data for Kentucky's fifteen Area Development Districts (ADDs) as well as the 120 counties. The Kentucky summary is presented first, followed by the ADDs, the counties in alphabetical order, definitions of each indicator, technical notes, and a list of data sources. All data are for resident population and calendar year 1998 unless otherwise indicated.

The health status indicators in this report have been selected from core data elements in the Assessment Protocol for Excellence in Public Health (APEXPH) process, the Centers for Disease Control's consensus set of health status indicators, and other sources. In some cases, data elements have been added in response to suggestions from users of previous reports. These suggestions have been invaluable in shaping the contents of this report.

No single publication can begin to encompass all the information necessary for a thorough assessment of health needs in any population. The primary purpose of this report is to gather in one place a number of key health status indicators that can assist local planners in assessing the health needs of their communities. It is intended to complement the *Kentucky Annual Vital Statistics Report, 1998*; it reproduces much of the data in that report, and incorporates additional data as well as more specific data at the county level. The reader is also urged to consult the references and sources listed in this report to gain a more thorough understanding of the data and their implications.

The Surveillance & Health Data Branch would appreciate any comments, questions, or observations that you may have concerning this report. We are most interested in anything you, the reader and user, have to offer. Please direct your comments, questions, and suggestions to:

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